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Message Text

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R 212250Z FEB 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 040059

FOLLOWING REPEAT QUITO 846 ACTION SECTATE INFO CARACAS
DATED 4 FEB 75
C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 0846

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, ENRG, VE, EC
SUBJ: FEDEPETROL PREPARES FOR CONFERENCE OF OPEC PETROLEUM WORKERS

1. ACCORDING TO RELIABLE TRADE UNION SOURCES, THE FORMER ECUADOREAN REPRESENTATIVE OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICAL WORKERS (IFPCW), VICTOR PALACIOS, VISITED ECUADOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 26 IN COMPANY WITH CARLOS PINERUA, PRESIDENT OF THE VENEZUELAN FEDERATION OF PETROLEUM WORKERS (FEDEPETROL), TO SOLICIT ECUADOREAN ATTENDANCE AT THE CONFERENCE OF PETROLEUM WORKERS OF OPEC COUNTRIES TO BE HELD IN CARACAS APRIL 21-24. OTHER FEDEPETROL REPRESENTATIVES ARE REPORTED TO HAVE VISITED OR ARE PLANNING VISITS TO OTHER OPEC COUNTRIES.

2. PALACIOS, WHO EARLIER RESIDED IN ECUADOR, IS NOW REPORTED TO BE THE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRO DE ESTUDIOS SOCIALES IN CARACAS. HE IS ALSO SUB-DIRECTOR OF THE TRADE UNION PAPER PETROLERO.

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3. THE AGENDA OF THE PROPOSED MEETING AS KNOWN HERE

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IS: A) NATIONALIZATION OF PETROLEUM INDUSTRIES; B) OPEC, ITS ROLE AND HOW TO STRENGTHEN IT, AND ITS IMPORTANCE AS A MODEL FOR OTHER PRODUCERS OF RAW MATERIALS; C) EQUALIZATION OF ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF WORKERS IN OPEC COUNTRIES; D) PETROLEUM PRICES AND WORLD INFLATION AND THEIR EFFECTS ON THE WORKERS; E) DEFENSE OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS; AND, F) PETROLEUM WORKERS AND MULTI-NATIONAL ENTERPRISES.

4. OF INTEREST IS THE REACTION OF THE MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES OF ECUADOR TO THE FIRST POINT ON THE AGENDA. IN A LETTER TO ONE TRADE UNION LEADER, WHO SOUGHT MINISTRY ASSISTANCE FOR LABOR PARTICIPATION AT THE CONFERENCE, SUB-SECRETARY OF NATURAL RESOURCES CESAR ROBALINO POINTED OUT THAT ECUADOR'S POSITION WITH RESPECT TO NATIONALIZATION WAS MUCH DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF VENEZUELA. ECUADOR HAD BEEN IN THE OIL BUSINESS ONLY 3 YEARS WHEREAS VENEZUELA HAD ABOUT 50 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN THE PETROLEUM FIELD.

5. COMMENT: ECUADOR'S NATIONALIZATION GOAL IS 51 PERCENT OVER AN UNDEFINED PERIOD. FROM HERE IT APPEARS THAT FEDEPETROL IS PREPARING TO STAGE A POLITICAL CONFERENCE IN CARACAS TO REINFORCE THE "NEW ECONOMIC ORDER". THE ECUADOREAN PARTICIPANTS, FOLLOWING COORDINATION WITH THE GOE, WILL PROBABLY BE AMONG THE MOST MODERATE OF WHAT WILL PROBABLY BE A SMALL NUMBER OF REAL TRADE UNIONS AT THE CONFERENCE.
BREWSTER
UNQUOTE
KISSINGER

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